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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As the head of a company that started out selling IBM's OS/2 I know for a FACT that the emergence of Windows in the OS wars was due to the terrible performance of IBM's marketing department and its treatment of ISVs. IBM's attempt to dominate the PC marketplace was far far more egregious than what MSFT did and once again I know I was there in the thick of that war. We are not even talking about Apple which tried to own the whole space of desktop computing by owning both the hardware and the software. I shake my head when I see who is doing the complaining against Microsoft! With regard to its supposed Monopoly today we as resellers are only too acutely aware of how tenuous the grip of any technology is on a marketplace especially Microsoft's whose reputation is constantly being threatened by reports of bugs and other attacks. I firmly believe that a new technology could easily displace a Microsoft technology either in the OS or in the applications arena. Microsoft's success is due to its pleasing of the customer and the channel. While I did not believe that Microsoft should have ever even been charged by the Department of Justice (for which I once worked) I most strongly urge anyone there to take into consideration my experience and views and approve the settlement that has been proposed.

Paolo